### NEWS

#### **The Tribal Newsletter**

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LETTER





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http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues

## **Conferences and Workshops**

## December

- 2 EPA's 40th Anniversary. Visit www.epa.gov/40th
- 13 17 Water Quality Standards Academy, Arlington, VA. www.glec-online.com/form.htm
- 14 P2 Webinar, National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Tribal Workgroup, Tribal Renewable Energy (geothermal projects). Visit http://tribalp2.org
- 16 White House Tribal Nations Conference www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/15/president-obama-announces-2010-white-house-tribal-nations-conference

## **February**

- 1-2Climate Change Workshop, Atlanta, GA. Visit www.epa.gov/crem/2011climate.html
- 3 5Human Right to Water Conference, Willamette Law School, Salem, OR www.willamette.edu/wucl/news/2010/spring/water\_conf\_papers.php
- 7 Innovative Energy Management Workshop: How to Reduce Energy Use and Increase Savings for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in the Northwest, Yakima, WA. Contact Cyndi Grafe, EPA Boise, (208) 378-5771, grafe.cyndi@epa.gov
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Visit www.nisaw.org 28 – Mar 4

## **April**

12 - 16 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, "Tribal Rivers as Confluences of Environmental and Cultural Restoration", Seattle, WA. www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting or contact Michael Hughes at (541) 783-2149 or Michael.hughes@klamathtribes.com

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## **President Obama Announces 2010 White House Tribal Nations Conference**

On Thursday, December 16, President Obama will host the White House Tribal Nations Conference.

As part of President Obama's ongoing outreach to the American people, this conference will provide leaders from the 565 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the President and representatives from the highest levels of his Administration. Each federally recognized tribe will be invited to send one representative to the conference. This will be the second White House Tribal Nations Conference for the Obama Administration, and continues to build upon the President's commitment to strengthen the nation to nation relationship with Indian Country.

For information, visit http://go.usa.gov/1xa

## **Renewable Energy: A Handbook for Tribes**

This handbook, developed on behalf of Department of Energy's Tribal Energy Program by Douglas MacCourt of Ater Wynne LLP, is available on DOE's **Tribal Energy Program Web site** 

It is offered as an accessible reference for those who are new to energy project development or seek a refresher on key development issues as they navigate the project development process. This handbook is intended to provide tribal leaders, tribal economic and energy enterprises, and those supporting them with a general overview of renewable energy project development.

## **RTOC Seeks to Improve Communication**

Part of the EPA Region 10 Tribal Caucus' mission is to improve communication between Tribes and the EPA. The Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) web site (www.rtocregion10.org) is one of the ways in which we hope to accomplish this. Please go to the EPA Region 10 RTOC's web site regularly to view:

- Calendar of Events
- Meeting Minutes
- Hot Environmental Topics on Indian lands for AK, ID, OR and WA
- How to contact the correct person at the EPA
- Updates on the 2010 Tribal Leader's Summit report
- Current Environmental News affecting Indian Country

- Webinars, Conferences and other events of interest to Tribal Environmental professionals
- RTOC member contact information

The RTOC welcomes any constructive feedback on how to improve the web site. Contact Randi C. Madison - Region 10 RTOC Communication Specialist, at randi.madison@rtocregion10.com

## **New EPA Water Web Site**

EPA's Office of Water has launched its redesigned web site, http://water.epa.gov, replacing four content areas on epa.gov. Information is now organized by topic in a way that should be more straight-forward and useful to visitors. Visitors looking for water-related content will be redirected to appropriate pages on the new site.

# Climate Change News

## **Template Helps Assess Climate Change**

The Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options (TAC-CIMO) is a web-based tool that provides land owners, managers, and planners with the most current climate change science available.

Developed by EFETAC researchers in partnership with USDA's Forest Service Southern Regional Planning, Land and Resource Management, and Cooperative Forestry programs, the TACCIMO tool compiles climate change projections, literature-based impacts and management options, and Forest Service land and resource management plans in an online database. The tool then synthesizes these inputs based on user-defined criteria and creates an optional customized report to aid forest planning and management.

For additional information, visit www.forestthreats.org/tools/taccimo

## **Climate News in Brief**

## La Niña

The Pacific Northwest should brace for a colder and wetter than average winter, while most of the South and Southeast will be warmer and drier than average through February 2011, according to the annual Winter Outlook released Oct. 21, 2010 by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

A moderate to strong La Niña will be the dominant climate factor influencing weather across most of the U.S. this winter.

# Gravity field satellites observe Antarctic ice mass fluctuations due to El Niño

Change in the ice mass covering Antarctica is a critical factor in global climate events. Scientists in Germany have now found that the year by year mass variations in the western Antarctic are mainly attributable to fluctuations in precipitation, which are controlled significantly by the climate phenomenon El Niño.

## **WestFAST Inventory of Water Science, Climate Change**

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) conducted an inventory of the current water science and water management climate change activities of its member agencies.

The inventory was conducted in support of the Climate Change Impacts elements of the 2008 "Next Steps" Western Governors' Association (WGA) report (actions 30-40). The purpose of this inventory is to share information on federal climate change programs that are relevant to western water managers to facilitate closer coordination between federal agencies and state water scientists and managers.

The report is available at:

http://water.epa.gov/scitech/climatechange/implementation.cfm#CP\_JUMP\_487468.

MORE CLIMATE NEWS → Next Page

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## **Climate Science and Research**

Oregon State University is poised to take a more viable leadership role in climate science and research after the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) each tabbed the university as part of separate, but complementary regional climate consortiums.

NOAA announced on Sept. 22 that the agency would establish one of six new regional integrated sciences and assessments (RISA) programs at OSU, along with a five-year grant of at least \$3.5 million to establish and coordinate the Pacific Northwest Climate Decision Support Consortium. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said on Sept. 23 that the DOI

would establish one of its eight planned Climate Science Centers in the Pacific Northwest, with OSU in a leading administrative role.

Initial funding of \$3.6 million over five years would provide logistical support for federal scientists and training for graduate students.

OSU officials said the NOAA center would provide climate variability assessment, research, and outreach to businesses, state and federal agencies, municipalities, **tribal** leaders, and non-government organizations, while the DOI center would focus primarily on science supporting decisions related to agencies within the DOI.

## National Climate Adaptation Summit Committee Releases Report on National and Regional Preparations for Adapting to Climate Change

A group of scientists, policymakers, and regional leaders unveiled a report about national and regional preparations for adapting to a changing climate.

The report, based on the National Climate Adaptation Summit, was presented to the President's Science and Technology Advisor, Dr. John P. Holdren, at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C. The Summit was convened by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in May 2010 as a result of a conversation between the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) Board of Trustees and Dr. Holdren. The Report and Summit materials are available at:

www.joss.ucar.edu/events/2010/ncas/summit\_report.html

# A Novel Tactic in Climate Fight Gains Some Traction

With energy legislation shelved in the United States and little hope for a **global climate change agreement** this year, some policy experts are proposing a novel approach to curbing **global warming** including greenhouse gases under an existing and highly successful international treaty ratified more than 20 years ago.

# **Moratorium on Geoengineering**

A plan to preserve biodiversity adopted at an international summit Oct. 29 encourages countries to place a moratorium on geoengineering (the practice of altering Earth's climate systems activities) that have lasting environmental effects.

Visit www.cbd.int (See 'For Media' link)



## NOAA Announces Six New Regional Climate Services Directors

To more effectively meet the rising public and private demand for climate products and services, NOAA Secretary Locke has announced the selection of six new NOAA regional climate services directors.

The new directors will work to build and strengthen regional partnerships to better assess and deliver regionally-focused climate science and information products and services to help people make informed decisions in their lives, businesses, and communities. The press release is available at http://go.usa.gov/1ak

## NASA Study Suggests Rising Temperatures Will Increase Wildfires in West

Rising global temperatures are likely to increase wildfires over the next several decades in the western United States and other arid regions such as northern Africa and southern Asia, a researcher with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said November 9. Follow **this link** to the report.

# **Global Warming Reduces Available Wind Energy**

A switch to wind energy will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions — and reduce the global warming they cause. But there's a catch, according to a new study: rising temperatures decrease wind speeds, making for less power bang for the wind turbine buck. Get the **full story** by clicking **this link**.

## **Warming & Adaptation**

Recent warming in the Southwestern United

States has been among the most rapid in the nation according to a recent report from the United States Global Change Research **Program.** The U.S. Global Change Research Program coordinates and integrates federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society. The USGCRP began as a presidential initiative in 1989 and was mandated by Congress in the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-606), which called for a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.

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# **EPA** to Host Workshop on Integrated Modeling of Climate Change Impacts

EPA is convening a workshop in Atlanta, GA on February 1-2, 2011 to facilitate the use of integrated modeling to inform and improve local, regional and national policy decisions relevant to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Goals of the workshop include the future development of a guide for States, Tribes, and

municipalities on identifying, assessing, and responding to the impacts of climate change, as well as a white paper on the future needs of integrated modeling for the assessment and response to climate change impacts.

Additional information is available at the following web site:

epa.gov/crem/2011climate.html

## **Climate Ready Water Utilities: Toolbox**

EPA recently released the *Climate Ready Water Utilities* (*CRWU*) Toolbox. The toolbox provides a searchable database for water utilities. It helps identify relevant climate change-related impacts, and resources for responding to those challenges. The toolbox includes:

- Current federal, state, and association activities related to climate change impacts on water resources and utilities
- Grant programs that could support climate-related actions by utilities and municipalities
- Publications and reports
- Tools and models and
- Workshops and seminars

These resources are searchable by utility type at <a href="http://go.usa.gov/1a3">http://go.usa.gov/1a3</a>

## **Video on Advancing the Science of Climate Change**

The National Research Council has released a video based on the report, *Advancing the Science of Climate Change*, one of four panel reports from the America's Climate Choices project.

The report maps out the realm of accumulated knowledge regarding climate change

and urges that research on climate change enter a new era focused on the needs of decision makers. In this video, the leaders of the panel, Dr. Pamela Matson and Dr. Thomas Dietz, describe the panel's key findings and the lines of evidence that brought them to those conclusions. The video is available by clicking this link.

## **Americans' Knowledge of Climate Change**

Yale University's report, Americans' Knowledge of Climate Change, is the result of a national study of what Americans understand about how the climate system works and the causes, impacts, and potential solutions to global warming. The study found that 63 percent of Americans believe that global warming is happening, but many do not understand why. In this

assessment, only 8 percent of Americans have knowledge equivalent to an A or B, 40 percent would receive a C or D, and 52 percent would get an F. The study also found important gaps in knowledge and common misconceptions about climate change and the earth system. The report is available at: http://environment.yale.edu/climate/files/ClimateChangeKnowledge2010.pdf

## F U N D I N G

## **Clean Water Act 319 Competitive Grants**

The Tribal 319 Competitive Funding Guidelines have been posted! **Proposals are due Friday, January 7, 2011**. The deadline for questions is Monday, January 3, 2011. Here is the link to the request for proposals: http://www.epa.gov/owow\_keep/NPS/tribal/funding11.html

All proposals MUST be submitted in hard copy to the Region or electronically through Grants.gov. No e-mail submissions will be accepted this year. If you have not used

Grants.gov before please go in and sign up at least a week in advance. The NEW 2011 CWA 319 *Base* Guidelines will be posted soon. EPA R10 will e-mail the base guidelines to eligible Tribes as soon as they are posted. The due date for 319 Base grants will be Friday, January 14.

If you want to start now, the old 2007 guidelines will be a good reference. They are located at www.epa.gov/owow\_keep/NPS/ tribal/tribal2.html (fourth bullet down)

# Funding Guidance Released for the State and Tribal Response Program

The intent of the State and Tribal Response Program (STRP) is help build state or tribal capacity to address hazardous and solid waste issues and is a better fit for those who are dealing with a number of potential sites in their community.

Funding requests are due January 31, 2011. Visit www.epa.gov/brownfields/state\_tribal/fund\_guide.htm

Tribes are highly encouraged to contact the EPA Region 10 Brownfields Program well in advance of the deadline to determine if the activities proposed are eligible and that they meet the overall requirements of the program. This helps ensure that what is proposed can be recommended to EPA Headquarters for funding.

The Region 10 Response Program point-of-contact is Deborah Burgess, who can be reached at (360) 753-9079. Susan Morales (206) 553-7299, Region 10 Brownfields Coordinator, can also answer questions.

Those who are new to the program should contact EPA for additional guidance on how to submit a request and to receive updated e-mails.

# Fall 2011 EPA Science Fellowships for Undergraduate Environmental Study

EPA, as part of its Science to Achieve Results program, is offering Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) undergraduate fellowships for bachelor level students in environmental fields of study. The fellowship provides up to \$19,700 per academic year of support and up to \$9,500 of support for a three-month summer internship. The deadline is December 9, 2010. Visit http://go.usa.gov/118

## Clean Water Act 106 Grants available

EPA is requesting applications from eligible Tribal governments for water quality planning and management to Indian Tribes under Section 106, Water Pollution Control. Tribes should refer to the guidance for the CWA Section 106 Tribal program, Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act for Fiscal Years 2007 and Beyond, which became effective October 2006.

Applications are due January 14, 2011.

## **Environmental Education Grants**

The Grants Program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. It is sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE), Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education.

EPA awards grants each year based on funding appropriated by Congress. Annual fund-

ing for the program ranges between \$2 and \$3 million. Most grants will be in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 range. EPA is currently working on the Requests for Proposals for the 2011 Environmental Education Grant Program.

Please sign up by clicking the blue button to the right to be electronically notified when the RFPs are available. Visit www.epa.gov/education/grants.html

# Funding: Reuse/Recycling/Restoration, Green Building, Climate Change

Competitive federal funding is available to support Reuse, Recycling, and Composting grant and cooperative agreement projects through the Department of Commerce's Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund. Green building, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects are also eligible.
Visit www.eda.gov/PDF/FY%202011%20
EDAP%20FFO-FINAL.pdf Or contact:
David R. Ives, US Department of Commerce, (202) 482-0529 or dives@eda.doc.gov

## **Tribal Project Assistance from NREL**

The Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is offering tribes financial and technical assistance to explore and implement renewable energy projects. NREL helps tribes develop and implement sustainable energy strategies with technical expertise

For more information visit

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and capabilities that support renewable

energy technology deployment.

www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/40509.pdf

## Student Design Competition for Sustainability

EPA, as part of the P3 Award Program, is seeking applications proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real world challenges involving the overall sustainability of human society. The deadline is December 22, 2010. Visit www.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2011/2011\_p3.html#SUMMARY

## National Congress for American Indians (NCAI) Opportunities

NCAI has posted a list of opportunities for Tribes resulting from the Recovery Act. There are also links to related news updates and webinars.

See www.indiancountryworks.org



Lenticular clouds are formed over Mt. Rainier when the air flow is pushed upward, cools, and condenses into clouds.

Photo courtesy ecrystal web site

## **EPA's Clean Water Act (CWA) Tribal Training Web Site**

EPA's CWA Tribal Training web site, http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/ tribaltraining/ has been updated with new information.

- 1. Water Quality Standards Academy Basic Course, December 13-17, Arlington, VA. For more information visit <a href="http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/tevent1026.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tevent1026.cfm</a>
- 2. Archived versions of the September 17 Intro to TAS and September 24 Intro to WQS are now available.

To access the September 17 files,

- 1. Visit http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/tevent100917.cfm
- 2. Click the link in the green box in the upper right corner of the page.

To access the September 24 files,

- 1. Visit http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/tevent100924.cfm
- 2. Cick the link in the green box in the upper right corner of the page.

# **EPA Opens Door to Allowing Biomass** to Qualify as GHG Permit Control

EPA's just-issued guidance on how to conduct emission control technology reviews for first-time greenhouse gas (GHG) permits opens the door to allowing biomass to qualify as a GHG control technology.

However, it stops short of granting industry's request to exempt biomass-burning facilities from GHG permitting

requirements. See **this article** at Insideepa.com. (Click link above.)

## **Prepare for Emergencies**

Find out what you can do to reduce risks from environmental hazards before, during, and after a natural disaster strikes. Visit www.epa.gov/naturalevents

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## **News Briefs**

# **EPA Recovery Act Projects Spotlighted**

Eight EPA projects have been highlighted in a new report, 100 Recovery Act Projects that are Changing America. The report highlights some of the most innovative and effective Recovery Act projects across the country that are not only putting people back to work now, but helping transform our economy for years to come.

To view the report, download a PDF by clicking this link.

## Modern Insecticides' Devastating Effects

Like DDT before it, a new class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids is believed to be causing drastic population declines in bird species.

It is so effective at killing insects, that it has deprived birds of their basic food. Some scientists also believe they are behind the decline in bee populations in Europe and the United States known as honey-bee Colony Collapse Disorder.

## Hatchery-Raised Salmon Threatens Wild Salmon in the Pacific Northwest

According to a recent study in the journal *Marine and Coastal Fisheries*, the overcrowding of salmon in the Pacific Northwest is nearing capacity for the ecosystem.

Once that limit is crossed, there will not be enough resources to sustain such great numbers. Visit

www.enn.com/wildlife/article/41956

## **Engineered Salmon?**

Twelve executive officers of some of the nation's largest environmental organizations requested that the Food and Drug Administration conduct a thorough Environmental Impact Statement before deciding whether to approve the first ever genetically engineered animal for food.

www.sitnews.us/1110news/110910/110910\_salmon.html

## **U.N. Climate Talks**

U.N. climate talks in Mexico seek a complex set of interlocking deals to slow **global warming** but will fall well short of a new treaty, the U.N.'s climate chief said. Christiana Figueres said that governments had lowered their sights for the November 29 - December 10 talks in Cancun, Mexico, after the Copenhagen summit in December 2009 failed to reach a sweeping new U.N. pact to **slow climate change**.

## Scientists Help Keep Smoked Salmon Safe for You to Eat

Scientists with the US Department of Agriculture are helping ensure that the smoked salmon that's always a hit at festive gatherings also is always safe to eat.

Included among their achievements is the development of a first-of-its-kind mathematical model that food processors and others can use.

The model selects the optimal combination of temperature and concentrations of salt and smoke compounds to reduce or eliminate microbial contamination of the product.

Click link for **full story** 

## **Water Quality Standards Academy is This Month**

PA will host a Water Quality Standards Academy on December 13 -17 in Washington, DC.

The Water Quality Standards Academy is a basic, introductory course designed for those with fewer than six months of experience with water quality standards.

This is a comprehensive and highly structured course that introduces participants to all aspects of the water quality standards program, including:

- The interpretation and application of the water quality standards regulation
- Water body designated uses

- The development of water quality criteria (including human health, aquatic life, nutrient and biological)
- Antidegradation policies
- Implementation state/tribal standards adoption and
- EPA review.

If you are interested in applying for the next session, please click on the following link and follow the prompts to submit your application and get additional information:

www.glec-online.com/form.htm More information, including self-paced modules can be found at: http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/standardsacademy/index.cfm

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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter December 2010



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Tribal Program 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101-1128

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter December 2010

## **Got News?**

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome. Please submit articles to: Don Creek, EPA, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 500, Portland Oregon, 97205 or e-mail creek.don@epa.gov.

## To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8802
Oregon	800-452-0311		